Vol. III. Numb. 108.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by ſome of the Society of GENTLEMEN, Concern'd in the Firſt and Second VOLUME, with the Aſſiſtance of other Ingenious PERSONS.

From Friday December 1ſt. to Monday December 4th. 1710.

GENTLEMEN,

Q. THE *Writing that appear'd to* Belſhazar, Daniel, *Reads*, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharſin, *but in the Interpretation, he calls the laſt Word* Peres. *Pray*, Gentlemen, *inform me what was the Reaſon of the Alteration.*

Your Humble Servant, B. E. B.

A. Upharſin ſignifies *et divident*, and comes from *pharas diviſit*, of which comes alſo the Participle *peres diviſus*, the Senſe of which is the ſame as *divident* according to the Idiom of the *Hebrew*. The Word is here changed by *Daniel* from a Verb into a Participle for the regularity of the *Syntax*, the two other Words being both Participles. For the Inſcription upon the Wall is to be literally Interpreted, *Numeratus, numeratus eſt, trutinatus, & divident eum*, inſtead of which *Daniel* ſays *diviſus*, and ſo the Conſtruction appears more regular.

Q. Gentlemen, *I have often thought that it wou'd be highly worth the Labour and Expence to join the* Mediterranean *and* Red *Sea (they being ſeparated only by a ſmall* Iſthmus) *conſidering the vaſt Profit it wou'd bring to* Egypt, Zangueber, Arabia *and other adjacent Nations, and the mighty Advancement of our* Eaſt-India *Trade thereby. Some indeed doubt whether the thing is practicable, being apprehenſive of an Inundation upon the adjacent Countries, eſpecially* Egypt, *which all agree to be very low and flat. But I cannot conceive how there can be any danger of this, if (as you ſay in one of your Papers) the Sea is every where of an equal Height. I deſire therefore your Thoughts upon this Subject the firſt Opportunity.*

A. Our Aſſertion, that the Sea is every where of an equal Height, is true only with regard to the natural Conſtution of Water, by which it is of a Spherical *Superficies*, having for its Center the Center of the Earth. But this does not hinder, but that there may be ſome external Cauſes which may deſtroy this Spherical Figure. For in Fact, it is certain that the Tide hinders the Ocean from having all its Parts equally diſtant from the Center, but on the contrary draws the Terraqueous Globe into the form of an oblong Spheroid, which is alſo perpetually varying its form according to the Motion and Poſition of the Luminaries. And again, upon ſuppoſition of the Revolution of the Earth about its Axis, Mathematicians demononſtrate that the Water will put on a Figure different from this other, which is that of an oblate Spheroid, of which the greateſt Diameter will be that of the Equator; and conſequently the Ocean muſt be higher at the Equator than at the Poles. But neither of theſe Reaſons need be any hinderance to the attempt here mentioned. The great doubt is whether the *Mediterranean* Sea is not lower than either the *Atlantic* or *Indian* Ocean, by Reaſon of the perpetual Flux which is obſerved of the *Atlantic* into the *Mediterranean*, at the Streights of *Gibraltar*. For tho' at the Streights the differences may be but ſmall, yet conſidering the length of this great Bay, and how the Water may be repelled and its Influx leſſen'd by the Impediments of many Rocks, Iſlands and Promontories, 'tis not improbable that the extream Parts of the *Mediterranean*, towards *Egypt* and *Aſia Minor*, may be lower than the Ocean. If what ſome Writers report of *Darius* and *Seſoſtris* be true, we are not to doubt of this Inequality of Height. For thoſe Kings attempting to dig a Canal between the *Red* Sea and the *Nile*, and ſo cauſe this Communication with the *Mediterranean*, deſiſted upon Information by Perſons of Skill, that the *Red* Sea was higher than the Inner *Egypt*, and conſequently than the *Mediteranean*, becauſe the *Nile* flows into it. The ſame Thing has been attempt-

ed in latter Times by the Sultans of *Egypt* and Emperors of the *Turks*, but for the ſame Reaſons they alſo deſiſted. But granting that, a Canal being dug from the *Red* Sea, the *Indian* Ocean wou'd ſend in abundauce of Water into the *Mediterranian*, it is very juſtly Queſtioned by *Varenius*, whether the above mentioned Countries wou'd ſuffer any Injury thereby, conſidering that if the *Indian* Ocean ſent in more through that Canal, the *Atlantic* wou'd perhaps ſend in leſs through the Streights; becauſe the Height of the *Atlantic* wou'd be leſſen'd, if the Motion were from the *Indian* Ocean into the *Mediterranean*. Therefore the ſame Author is of Opinion, that thoſe Princes gave over this Attempt rather for Political than Natural Reaſons. The Charge and Trouble of the Work wou'd have been very great; for that *Iſthmus*, where it is narroweſt, is 160 Miles broad, and the Ground it ſelf rocky and uneven. Beſides they might be affraid that the *Chriſtians* being very powerful at Sea, wou'd not only reap more advantage by their Commerce and Navigation this way, than the *Turkiſh* Dominions; but alſo make themſelves Maſters of that Canal and the adjacent Countries, together with *Medina*, and the Sepulcher of their Prophet *Mahomet*,

Q. Gentlemen, *There is a great Rumor goes about Town, that the* Theater *at the* Hey-Market, *will be Beautified in an Extraordinary Manner, both as to Decorations and Machines: If ſuch a deſign is in Hand, Pray, give us ſome Light into it; and you will Oblige many, who delight in* Opera's, *particularly,*

Your Humble Servant, N. R.

A. We can aſſure you there is ſufficient Grounds for the Report, not only from the Proſpect we may conceive from the Ingenuity of the Preſent Maſter of that Houſe, *Aaron Hill*, Eſq; who is a Gentleman not only of as bright Parts as perhaps any in *Europe*, for ſuch an Undertaking, but alſo has a generous Soul in proportion thereunto, and a ſufficient Eſtate to go through ſuch a Glorious Undertaking; I may well ſay Glorious, becauſe it will give a great Luſter to our Nation, and doubtleſs the Fame of it, will bring many of Quality from Foreign Countries to behold it, when Fame ſhall ſpread abroad that *Great Britain*, is Miſtriſs of the moſt Illuſtrious *Theater* in *Europe*, as we are ſatisfied it will be, from what we are acquainted with in that Gentleman's Deſigns, of which all will be convinc'd, when they ſhall ſee thoſe Beautiful Pieces of Art finiſh'd, which are now in Hand. But that Perſons of Quality may not be diſappoinred in their Expectations, we deſire them to conſider, ſuch a Prodigious Piece of Work cannot be finiſh'd at once, there being ſo very few Perſons capable of aſſiſting in ſuch Deſigns, but they will very ſoon ſee ſuch Specimens, as may ſatisfy that all their Expectations will be gradually Anſwer'd. We underſtand the Stage already is extended every way to a great Degree, Preparatory for the other Performances deſign'd to be produced upon it. We alſo underſtand, that the ſaid Gentleman, when he has made the Stage ſo Beautiful, does not deſign to ſtop there, but Annually to proceed to divers matters entirely New. We will not doubt, but our People of Quality and Gentry, will with the greateſt Alacrity, encourage an Undertaking intended in ſo peculiar a manner, to advance their Delight and Satisfaction. An Undertaking not only ſo delightful, but alſo perfectly Innocent in its own Nature: *Opera's*, being free, even from thoſe Imputations of Imoralities caſt upon Plays. Nor cou'd ever ſuch an Affair be encourag'd at ſo proper a time as now; ſince as we have the moſt Glorious Queen in the World, how *a propos*, muſt a Beautiful *Theater* be for a Metropolis of ſuch a Queen, and that at once *Great Britain* ſhou'd be Famous every where, for the moſt unrival'd Ornaments of all Kinds. That when Travellers from all Parts ſhall come to admire the Wiſdom of our Queen, they ſhou'd at the ſame time be entertain'd with the Ingenuity of Her Subjects, who may in ſome degree be thought worthy of ſuch a Princeſs, and ſo the whole Nation be of a Piece. There needs nothing to be ſaid in the applauſe of the *Muſical Part* of an *Opera*, ſince they who are not delighted therewith, can have no Harmony in their Souls, and ſuch are ſo rude in their own Nature, that all endeavours to Poliſh them wou'd be in vain, and by Conſequence, our time be loſt in endeavouring it.

POEMS.

APOLLO,

Q. *'TIS Fooliſh and Odd,*
To think that a God,
Who whirls all around,
The Sea and the Ground,
Shou'd ever his Motion retard,
T'obſerve what we do,
In Regions below,
A diſtance ſo far,
Muſt doubtleſs debar,
From having to Mortals, regard.

How Idle then, 'tis,
When things are amiſs,
To go to his Shrine,
Our Caſe to Divine,
Since 'las! while our Nonſenſe we ſmatter;
He keeps on his way,
Without any ſtay;
And drives on his Horſes,
Intent on their Courſes,
Without any Note on the matter.

When Strephon *is Whining,*
And Cellida *Pining,*
Aud Parents Conjuring,
Againſt their Inſuring,
Their Hearts to each other they fly;
The Youth and the Maid,
T'APOLLO, *for aid;*

But back they are ſent;
As Wiſe as they went,
For He *knows no more of 'em than I.*

And others, their Parts,
Improving in Arts,
When Puzzel'd they are,
Or've worn their Wits bare,
Strait go to his Godſhip *to ask,*
What Method to take,
Improvement to make;
But can they believe,
Attention he'll *give,*
Or himſelf with ſuch Trifles will task.

And ſome too, there be,
In Philoſophy,
Who when they in vain,
Some Secret wou'd gain,
Be'ng ſtopt by a Myſtical doubt;
Beyond all their Fetches,
The Ignorant Wretches,
To Phœbus, *ſtrait throng,*
In Proſe or in Song,
Depending that he'll find it out.

And others who know
Not, which way to go,
Plung'd deep by their Fears,
Ev'n o'er Head and Ears,
Wou'd know how they ſoon may be Great,
And hope that the God,
Will by a kind Nod,
Point out the Way clear,
What courſe they ſhall ſteer,
Againſt both their Stars and their Fate.

Bright Titan, *the while,*
Looks on with a Smile.
And but ridicules,
The Politic Fools,
Who think his aſſiſtance he'll give 'em,
And ſend proper Aid,
Upon Requeſt made;
When he knows no more,
Than they who implore,
Theirs Suff'rings, how to relieve 'em.

No more then pretend,
(When ſelf's *at the end)*
APOLLO *will Anſwer,*
What e'er we advance, Sir,
Since how in his Spheer, ſhou'd he know,
Or how at that diſtance,
Shou'd give his aſſiſtance;
Counſel and advice,
And that in a trice,
In matters we're Acting below.

If a knock in the Cradle,
Might turn your Brains addle;
If a top of the Houſe,
As Giddy's a Gooſe,
Do you think that a *God's* Intellects;
Are n't ſtronger and greater,
Than ſuch a weak Prater,
Or that at their Pleaſure,
The World they can't meaſure,
To bring forth their Glorious Effects.

Do not his Rays ſhow,
That *APOLLO*, below,
Converſes with all,
The Great and the Small,
While to their Avenues h' approaches;
And that ev'ry Creature,
And all things in Nature,
With their Myſteries,
Lye bare to his Eyes,
'Sif ſhewn by a Thouſand of Torches.

If you're in your Soul,
As Blind as an Owl,
Muſt others then ſee,
No better than Thee;
Alas, this affects not *APOLLO*,
The Learn'd and the Wiſe,
Thy Flirts'll deſpiſe,
Nor ever diſdain,
Or think it in vain,
The Counſel he gives 'em to follow.

☞ Any Perſon may have the *Index* to the Second Volume of the *Britiſh Apollo*, alſo whole Sets Bound or Unbound, and Single Sheets to make up Sets of the ſaid Volume, of the Men in their Walks, or of *J. Mayo*, over againſt *Water-Lane, Fleet-Street.*

SIR,

THE Letters from the Hague, December the 5th. Adviſe, That the ſeveral Provinces of this Goverment having given their Conſent to forbid the Importation of certain Commodities from the Baltick Sea, and to oblige all Ships coming from thoſe Parts to make their Quarantain, to prevent the ſpreading of the Infection from thence the States Geaeral have Publiſhed a Placard accordingly; That the Dutch Fleet from Muſcovy is arrived ſafe at the Texel; That the French Kings Edict, which has been talked of here for ſome time, is at laſt come out, prohibiting the Subjects of this Country to Trade any more with France, and ordering that no Paſports ſhall be given to the Dutch Ships for the Future; That Particular Letters from France aſſure us, that his Catholick Majeſty's Army keeps very exact Diſcipline in their Quarters in Caſtile, that the People at Madrid follow

low their Buſineſs as uſual, without any Molleſtation; and that neither Churches nor Houſes have been rifled there, as the Enemy have Suggeſted; That the City of Toledo is look'd upon to be well Fortified already, that it would not be practicable for the Duke of Anjou to drive the Allies out of Caſtille, were his Army better and ſtronger than it is at Preſent; The if the Duke of Noailles is diſappointed in his Project, there is no doubt but that King Charles will have time to eſtabliſh himſelf, and wait for the Succours which are ſending to him; That the Court of France, among their ſeveral Projects for raiſing Money, have got an Operator, who has undertake to make Gold; he has been introduced to the King, and is now at Work to perform the large Promiſes he has made.

Which is all from Yours, &c.

WHEREAS ALL THE SETS OF THE FIRST Volume of the *BRITISH APOLLO*, have been for ſome time diſpos'd of, tho' none under *15 s. 6 d. per* Set, bound. The ſaid Vol. containing above 2000 Anſwers to Curious Queſtions, in moſt Arts and Sciences, approv'd of by both the Univerſities and of the Royal Society, is now Reprinting in Octavo by Subſcription. The Terms are, each Subſcriber to pay *2 s. 6 d.* in Hand, and *2 s. 6 d*, on the Delivery of each Book, neatly bound, gilt edges and letter'd on the back. *Note*, no Subſcriptions will be taken in after the 4th. of *December* Inſtant; the Book will then Publiſhed, none will be ſold under *6 s.* by Reaſon it makes a great many Sheets more then was expected. They who ſubſcribe for ſix *Books* to have a ſeventh *Gratis*, and to Bookſellers their uſual Allowance. Propoſals may be had, and a Printed Ticket given to thoſe who are willing to ſubſcribe, at Mr. *Woodward's* in St. *Chriſtopher's Church-Yard Threadneedle-ſtreet*, Mr. *Clark's* in *Birchin-lane* near the *Royal-Exchange Cornhill*, Mr. *Carter's* at the *Roſe* and *Crown* in St. *Paul's-Church-Yard*, Mr. *Bickerton's* at the *Roſe* and *Crown* in *Little-Britain*, Bookſellers, Mr. *Harbin* at the *Roſe* next Door to the *Globe-Tavern* in the *Strand* near *Charing-Croſs*, or of *J. Mayo* Printer hereof, over againſt *Water Lane*, *Fleet-ſtreet*. Where all Perſons are deſired to direct their Letters with Queſtions to any of thoſe Places abovementioned (Superſcrib'd for the *Britiſh Apollo*) and great Care will be taken to Anſwer all ſuch as are worthy Anſwering. None will be Anſwer'd out of the Country but where Poſtage is paid. Likewiſe any Perſons in Town may have this Paper brought to their Houſes at *3 s. per* Quarter, by directing as aforeſaid.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Front ſide of a good Houſe, Situate in a Clear Airy Court, in Fleet-ſtreet, not far from Temple-Bar, is to be Lett, with great Conveniencies, commodious for five or ſix in Family. Enquire at Steward's Coffee-Houſe, in Three-King-Court, Fleet ſtreet.

AT the Office of Inſurance on Marriage, in *Bolt-Court*, *Fleet-ſtreet*, any Perſon by Paying 2 s. for a Policy, Stamps and Entrance, and *2 s.* towards each Marriage, until their own, may ſecure to themſelves 200. *Note*, Ten Perſons, for *4 l. 6 s.* by them paid, received above 390 *l.* and Two others, in 14 Days will receive near 200 *l.* and after that time each Claim will amount to above 120 *l.* which will be daily more and more, till full, which ſufficiently ſhews the Advantages of this Office are much greater than any other of this kind pretend to.

A General Meeting of the Subſcribers was held at *Sadler's-Hall*, in *Cheapſide*, on *Thurſday*, *October* the 19, 1710. and a Second Six Truſtees were added to the former, to whom Security is given, purſuant to the Propoſals which may be had *Gratis*, at the Office.

THIS preſent Monday being the 4th of December, about two of the Clock; at the Widow Pratt's Coffee-Houſe, in Cat-Eaton-Street, nigh St. Lawrence-Church, will be opened, a Faithful Office of Inſurance upon Marriage, and one of Inſurance upon the Baptiſm of Infants, Born in Wedlock.——Where Propoſals at large of each Office may be had Gratis. The Inſurers are deſired to give in their Names, and the Names of the Perſons they inſure upon, in Writing.

AT the Office of Inſurance on Marriage in Kings-Head-Court in Petticoat-Lane, near Biſhops-gate-Street; any Perſon by Paying 2 s. at their Entrance for a Policy and Stamps, and 1 s. towards each Marriage until their own, or the Marriage of the Perſon on whom they Subſcribe; will ſecure to themſelves 100 l. when full, and in the mean time in Proportion.

Note, A General Meeting of the Subſcribers, was held at Sadlers-Hall, in Cheapſide, on Thurſday *Nov.* the 9th. where Twelve Truſtees were Choſen, whom 500 *l.* Security, is given purſuant to the *Propoſals*, which may be had *Gratis*, at the Office, where Attendance is given, for taking in Subſcriptions, from 8 in the Morning, 'till 8 at Night, every Day, excepting Sundays and Holidays.

MR. *Roger Grant*, OCULIST and OPERATOR, in Extraordinary to Her MAJESTY, who has been ſo ſucceſsful in Couching the Cateract and Curing all other Curable Diſtempers in the Eyes, lives in St. *Chriſtopher's Church-Yard*, where he has lately brought to Sight theſe Perſons under-nam'd. *Wil. Jones*, at *Newington-Buts*, born blind, brought to Sight in 5 minutes. *Suſan Barns*, at Mr. *Haunches*, in the *Broad-way Weſtminſter*, blind 11 Years, brought to Sight in 3 minutes. *Mary Dearing*, in *Swan-Yard* near *Newgate*, aged 75 Years, reſtored to Sight in one Minute. *Elizabeth Wild*, in *Bell-Alley Goſwell-Street*, blind of one Eye 23 Years, reſtored to Sightin 5 minutes. *William Dixon*, in *Chelſea-College*, aged 87, reſtor'd to Sight in 5 minutes. *John Myers* on *Saffron-Hill*, blind by Obſtruction of the *Optick Nerves*. A Gentlewoman whoſe Mother lives at Juſtice *Conſtables* in *Goodman's-Fields*, the ſame. Mrs. *Jackſon* in *Wood's-Cloſe*, the ſame. Mr. *Williams*, in *Peter-Street Old-Soho*. *Anne Andrews* in *Goſwell-Street*. *Saywell Lathan*, at *Adam's-Coffee-Houſe Chancery-Lane*. *Anne Allen*, in *Nightingal-Lane*. **NOTE**, Theſe with 235 others have been Cur'd ſince *Sept.* 1708. by the aforeſaid Mr. *Grant*.

A Patent under the Great Seal of England has been granted to Charles Holman in Red-Lion-Street in Southwark, for the making of his London Ink-Powder for Records. Being Moſt Excellent for all Perſons to make their Writing-Ink as black and as ſtrong as they pleaſe. EachSix-penny Paper makes a Pint of the beſt, or Pint and half, or Quart for Shop-keeper's common Writing or Marking-Ink, only by ſhaking or ſtirring it in ſo much Rain or River-Water; and it amends all weak and pale Ink, or Ink ſpoiled by the Froſt, and Directions to each Paper of Powder, to prevent Ink from Freezing. 'Tis Sold by moſt Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers in and about London; and by Shop-keepers in the chiefeſt Cities and Towns in England. And that none may be impoſed on by any falſe Pretenders, Cheats or Counterfeits, this only has been publickly Experienced for many Years, and Appoved for the beſt Ink in moſt parts of the World.

LONDON: Printed for, and Sold by *J. Mayo*, at the *Printing-Preſs* againſt *Water-Lane* in *Fleet-Street*. Where Advertiſements are Taken in.